

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-20, 23, 24, 27-30 and 34-41 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 21, 22 and 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,770,079 ("Mastroianni"). Claim 4 was objected to as being allegedly dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 6-8, 10-20, 23, 28-30 and 34-41 were allowed. These rejections and objections are respectfully traversed, for reasons that include those set forth in the prior responses, which are hereby incorporated by reference, and those set forth below.

However, in order to put this application in condition for allowance, claims 1, 21, 22, 25 and 26 have been canceled, without prejudice. Moreover, claim 27 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 23, instead of claim 1.

Claims 2 Through 4 and 24 Depend From Allowed Claims and Therefore Should Have Been Allowed

Claim 2 depends from allowed claim 41. Claim 3 depends from claim 2. Similarly, claim 24 depends from allowed claim 23. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 2, 3 and 24 should be withdrawn.

Claim 4 depends from claim 3, which should be allowed as depending from allowed claim 41. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claim 4 should be withdrawn.

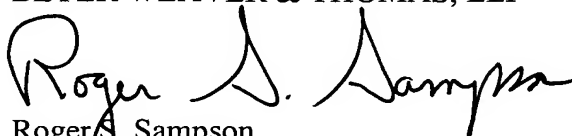
Claims 27 Now Depends From Allowed Claim 23

Claim 27 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 23 instead of rejected claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 27 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger S. Sampson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" being the most prominent.

Roger S. Sampson
Reg. No. 44,314

510.495.3201
P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778